

CROSSING

Proudly Celebrating **25** Years of Service and Education to the Community

This special edition of The Crossing has been produced to share with you a spectacular event recently held at Roxbury Community College's Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center. Roxbury Community College hosted the Empowerment Zone Enterprise Community Conference. Over fifteen hundred conference participants attended the day long event.

Among the dignitaries participating in the conference were the Vice President of the United States, Al Gore; Housing and Urban Development Secretary, Andrew Cuomo; the Governor of Massachusetts, William Weld; and the mayor of Boston, Thomas Menino.

I had the honor of being asked to be the mistress of ceremonies for the program, and a participant in the 40 member national panel led by Al Gore. I was particularly impressed by the vast amount of information and data that was shared by testimonials. The panel consisted of Mayors, agency heads, small business entrepreneurs and national heads of HUD, Agriculture, Department of Justice and United States Congressmen and Congresswomen.



The Vice President of the United States, Al Gore

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David Fraizer and his staff made herculean efforts to insure the success of the event by having worked almost around the clock for two days prior to the event. Roxbury Community College students, administration and staff members, graciously volunteered their time to insure the success of the conference. As a result, to the observer RCC's performance was flawless.

The pictures, articles and news-clippings in this special addition of this Crossing are provided in order to share with you this exciting event.

To the Roxbury Community College family, please accept my thanks to you for having insured the success of the event. Thank you again for a job well done.

Grace Carolyn Brown, President

My Day as a “Member of the Press”

by Nadine Valery Dowling

Although the College hired a professional photographer, Don West, to take the official photographs at the conference, I willingly volunteered my services as a back up photographer.

In my previous assignments for the College, I have taken photographs of our president, as well as of the Presidential Lecture Series speakers, students in classrooms for recruitment advertising, commencement, some photographs for the annual report and other College related activities. During that time, I have become fairly accustomed to moving throughout the College at will, without restriction, crawling on my knees, standing on chairs, doing whatever I thought it might take to “get a good shot.”

My first encounter with the White House Press came late one afternoon (around 4:55 p.m.), with a request that I supply the press with photographs of students and other relevant college scenes to be reviewed by the press staff for possible inclusion in a collage to be used as a backdrop for Vice President Al Gore’s speech. When I inquired when the press needed the photographs, I was casually informed that they’d like the photographs and negatives by 5 or 5:30 that evening. Such was my introduction to the frenetic pace the Staffs of the White House, HUD and our own Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center were keeping in the days leading up to the Empowerment Zone/ Enterprise Community Conference.

Because I would be carrying a camera, and would therefore have the opportunity to possibly get closer to the Vice President than other conference participants, the Secret Service had to run my social security number to insure I

did not pose a risk to national security! Having successfully completed the security check, I was given a press badge and declared ready to take photographs.

On the day of the conference, accompanied by both my trusty camera and Michael Ranaudo who walked to the Reggie Lewis Center with me, I was greeted by Secret Service agents who had me flash my flash attachment to my camera; they then inspected my camera bag, and my camera... a ritual that occurred every time I went from the conference site to the lobby area! It didn’t matter to them whether I was going to speak to Dr. Brown, or attempting to locate another press person, or going to call my office; the rule was if I changed locations, they inspected my belongings.

The press were cordoned off in a small area together, front and center of the conference participants. Television crew from CNN & channels 5,7,4, peacefully co-existed with AP photographers, as well as photographers from the Globe and the Herald. It was interesting to observe both the camaraderie between different photographers as well as to see how sophisticated the camera equipment was that was used by the professionals. In fact, many of the lenses they used were twice as big as my camera.

In order for any of the press people to move closer to the Vice President to take a photograph, we had to first be given access. We were required to obtain permission to move, then we had to wait for a Secret Service agent to accompany us to the approved location. When the agent decided we had been given enough time to shot our photos, he announced that we had to return to our seats.

It was fascinating to see the Secret Service in operation. At one point I was changing film, and opened the back of my camera. When I closed the camera back, it shut with a loud click... at least two Secret Service people that I was aware of immediately turned their attention towards me; I think one agent acquired several gray hairs as a result of that sound!

Perhaps the most interesting moment that I experienced was watching our President, Dr. Brown, interact with the Vice President, Al Gore. Vice President Gore was greeting the assembled dignitaries when Dr. Brown skillfully spun him around and smiled broadly; thus enabling the assembled press to take photographs of her with Al Gore. I was too busy taking Dr. Brown’s photograph to notice how the Secret Service agents responded to this, but I certainly could take a guess.



I hope you enjoy seeing the pictures throughout this edition of the Crossing; I certainly had an interesting and educational time taking them.



Don West takes photographs while an unidentified female secret agent looks on



Secret Service agents check baggage at point of entrance into the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Facility



Vice President of the United States Al Gore, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo, Local Businessman Clayton Turnbull, Roxbury Community College, President Grace Carolyn Brown

Vice President Gore

Visits Reggie Lewis Track & Athletic Center at Roxbury Community College

By David Fraizer

On Tuesday, August 22nd, Roxbury Community College President, Dr. Grace Carolyn Brown, along with her faculty, staff and students, welcomed Vice President Al Gore to the college's Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center.

The Vice President's visit came in conjunction with his participation in the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development 1997 Empowerment Zone Conference which was hosted at the Center. Other dignitaries who joined the President at this national urban conference included: Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo, U.S. Senator John Kerry, U.S. Congressman Joseph Kennedy, Massachusetts Governor William Weld, Boston Mayor Tom Menino, and State Representatives Gloria Fox and Kevin Fitzgerald.

According to the Secretary Cuomo, Roxbury Community College was selected as the Empowerment Zone Conference site due, in part to its wonderful facilities, but more importantly because of its proximity and performance in the designated City of Boston Empowerment Zone. "As you know," said Cuomo, "Empowerment Zones" are established with the intention of focusing federal support for certain urban areas to help spur re-vitalization, economic growth, job creation, job training and small business support." "Boston has been a leader in capitalizing on this program," he added, "and Roxbury Community College and the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center are an important part of this success."

Preparation for the day long conference, which was attended by representatives of more than 60 cities and towns from across the country, required an approximate two week commitment from college and track employees.

"Our staff performed beyond all expectations" said Dr. Brown. "They were stretched to the limit; from dealing with participants and set-up, to coordinating access and security with the Secret Service, they left nothing to chance, and as a result they made this college and this community look very good in front of a prominent national audience."

Newspaper Articles

The Boston Globe

Tuesday, July 22, 1997

Names & Faces

Gore to visit
Roxbury Community College

After Roxbury Community College President Grace Carolyn Brown went to the White House for an educators' meeting, she invited Vice President Al Gore to make a reciprocal visit. Gore comes to RCC's Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center today.

The Boston Globe

Wednesday, July 23, 1997

Gore Promises \$40m to Boston

Also calls for expanded empowerment projects

Declaring that empowerment zones are a proven way to insure cities "don't get left behind" in a surging economy, Vice President Al Gore swept into Boston yesterday to dispense millions of dollars and to call on Congress to expand the program.

"Give the people in the neighborhoods the tools they need to help themselves, and the access to resources to build their dreams," Gore said at a conference on empowerment zones at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center at Roxbury Community College.

Gore announced \$40 million in additional funding for an array of projects for Boston's empowerment zone, where projects have largely struggled to get started....

Clayton Turnbull, a local entrepreneur who has established Dunkin' Donut franchises in some of Boston's struggling urban areas, said "the neighborhoods are poised and ready to participate in the downtown boom."

In the past, Turnbull said, residents of poor areas of the city watched as development took off downtown.

"And just when it looked like it come to us, it dried up," he said.

At the conference, which drew an estimated 1,500 people, Gore led two round-table discussions - one on making capital available for businesses and another on training in poorer city neighborhoods.

Bay State Banner

Thursday, July 24, 1997

Tuesday, Vice President Al Gore dropped into the South End for the ground breaking ceremony of the New South End Health Center on Washington Street, then sped off to Roxbury Community College to join a conference on the city's Enhanced Enterprise Community.

Boston Herald

Wednesday, July 23, 1997

At Roxbury Community College, Gore announced Boston will receive more than \$40 million in empowerment zone grants. That includes \$6 million for a new complex at the South End Community Health Center, which will create 110 permanent and 250 construction jobs

Boston also will receive \$34 million for housing rehabilitation, including money for emergency shelters and people with AIDS.

Special Thanks to Everyone

Who contributed their time, energy, emotions, and self to insure that this event was such a huge success, including:

David Fraizer

The Staff of the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center Facility

Michael Ranaudo and the Staff of the Public Safety Department

Bob Robichaud and the Facilities Staff

Jean Ewing and the Media Arts Center

Our Volunteer staff including:
Hattie Reid, Carol Bliss-Furr, Sue Marcum, Cody Laririt, Carolyn Triplett, Helen Singleton, LaVerne Banks, Angela Amell, Gretchen Jones, Walter Silva, Altagracia Mirabal, Pamela Saucer, Eveth McPherson, Gloria Castro, Mustafa Mohamed, Andrea Roisten, Joanne Singleton, Celeste Thomas, Elpidia Carlos, Kato Fennick, Sheila McDaniels, Elizabeth Clark, Shawna Smith, Jason Potter

Mark Your Calendars

As you know, the College is celebrating twenty five years of service and education to the Community this year! A twenty-fifth anniversary committee will shortly be formed to coordinate many of the activities associated with this long year celebration. In the event you are interested in participating, please call Nadine Dowling on extension 5450.

Our first lecturer in the Presidential Lecture Series will be Dr. Manning Marable, who will be speaking on "The Future of Black Empowerment: Race, Politics, and Public Policy." Thursday, September 25, 1997 at the Media Arts Center, 7:00pm

Watch for our
"Back to School" issue
later this month.